

**County of Middlesex  
Office of Workforce Development  
One Stop Operations/WorkFirst Collaborative Meeting  
550 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 - WIA Conference Room B  
October 7, 2014 – 1:30 PM**

Attendees: **Kevin Kurdziel**, Baden Almonor, Manuel Biagas, George Brokaw, Janice Fishbein, Carla Ghee, Sherri Goldberg, Christine Granaldi, Wanda Johnson, Sharon Hartman, Tracy Montani, Bobbin Paskell, Julie Piano, Dr. Senovia Robles, John Ross, Miriam Ruiz, Roni Salkin, Diane Seavers, Jeff Shulman, Timothy Timberlake, Linda Urbach, Kelly Williams, Jean Zwingli

Staff: Helina K. Wisniewski, Secretary

Julie Piano called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the June 26, 2014 One Stop Operations Committee were presented for approval. Manuel Biagas made a motion for the approval of the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting. John Ross seconded and the motion carried.

**Funding for Program Year 2014 – Julie Piano**

The previous Program Year 2013 there were 664 contracts completed. Our goal for Program Year 2014 is 654. Thus far, we completed 169 contracts for this program year.

**UI Issues – Carla Ghee**

Since the last meeting everything is still the same. The office is still slow and no serious issues or problems.

**Literacy/High School Equivalency - Tim Timberlake**

Around August 1, 2014 the State of New Jersey is now giving out the High School Diplomas. There was a back log of four months of diplomas to be given out to the customers.

There is a sleuth of cheating on the Computer Based Testing. There are individuals coming in with flash drives that are disguised. The New Brunswick Adult Learning Center has a 50/50 passing rate and throughout the entire United States is a 70% passing rate.

Julie indicated the contracts with NBALC for Basic Skills, Remediation and ESL has a great flow since September. The WorkFirst clients are attending these programs as well. The ALC provides services for people who have their GED and who are functional with a 6h grade level and if they are below this level they are referred to the ALC.

**WIOA – New Legislation – Julie Piano**

- July 22, 2014 - the WIOA was signed.
- January 18, 2015 – Proposed regulations published to include detailed definition of performance measures.
- July 1, 2015 - WIOA takes effect except current WIA performance measures continue to apply through PY'2015 ending June 30, 2016.
- July 22, 2015 – Eligible Training Provider provisions implemented at state and local level. Enrollments and Exit information will be placed on the ETPL.

- July 22, 2015 – Templates for state, local and ETPL performance reports developed.
- January 22, 2016 – Final regulations published.
- March 3, 2016 - Goals for new performance measures negotiated with states.
- June 30, 2016 - New performance indicator (s) to measures effectiveness in serving employers developed by DOL and ED.
- July 1, 2016 - Full implementation of WIOA performance measure.
- The Youth requirement will be 75% for out-of-school youth.
- Performance Measures
  - Entered Employment - currently measured in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter after exit and under WIOA measured in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter after exit.
  - Employment Retention – currently measured in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter after exit and under WIOA measured in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter after exit.
  - Credential Rate – New Measure: Percentage of participants who obtain a recognized post-secondary credential or diploma during participation or with 1 year after program exit.

#### **WorkFirst Update – John Ross**

Relevant WFNJ Statistics (attached) were released for the months of July and August, 2014. The Participation Rate was discussed further in terms of efforts by the Board of Social Services and the One Stop Vendors to address operational areas where participation can be increased. A separate meeting to discuss this subject in detail will occur at the conclusion of the Collaborative. Additional meetings involving those Agencies intimately connected to this issue will be scheduled on possibly a monthly basis. The New Brunswick Adult Learning Center and the Middlesex County College have hired Staff to fully implement their plans to increase the number of Community Work Experience Program (CWEP) Worksites and Clients assigned to this Activity. By doing so, the number of clients transferred to a countable activity will exceed the number of clients in a non-countable activity. This will positively affect the Participation Rate. The benchmark for both Vendors is 75% of Job Search completers who are not employed part time or assigned to an educational activity. Both Agencies started FY-2015 substantially under that level but as of October 1, 2014; considerable improvement has been noted.

#### **Transportation Grants:**

Block Grant through NJ Dept. Human Services/DFD: \$211,890.00 pending Approval of contract between Middlesex County and State of New Jersey.

Needs Based Work Supports Through NJDOLWD: \$50,000.00 Approved.

#### **WorkFirst Update - Jean Zwingli**

- A new medical document was implemented to be more concise and will help to evaluate the clients better.
- There were staff changes at the MCBOS.

#### **Open Discussion/Other Business**

- Kevin Kurdziel – The USDOL is hosting a town hall meeting from Boston for Region 1 on Monday, October 27, 2014. WIB Directors were invited and Kevin will participate in the WEB Conference.
- Kevin Kurdziel - The County website is being modified.
- Julie Piano – Members can email her at [julie.piano@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:julie.piano@dol.state.nj.us) or call her at (732)745-3959 if they have any questions or concerns.

### **Adjournment**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014, at 1:30pm. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

### **Information/Handout Distributed to Members**

- Julie Piano      Information on USDOL The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Overview
- Julie Piano      Chart – Performance Measures under WIOA
- John Ross      Chart - WFNJ Middlesex County July & August 2014

10/31/14

**Work First New Jersey**

**Middlesex County**

**July & August 2014**

**TANF**

Referrals:	523
New Enrollments:	278
Show Rate:	53%
Total Served:	815
Placements:	53
Engagements:	110
Reengagements:	138
Total Contacts:	655
Participation Rate:	18%

**GA/SNAP**

Referrals:	1,025
New Enrollments:	351
Show Rate	34%
Total Served:	1,391
Placements:	55